

MINUTES
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Commission Conference Call Meeting
1420 East 6th Avenue – Helena Headquarters - Helena, MT 59620
SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

Commission Members Present: Bob Ream, Chairman; Dan Vermillion, Vice-Chairman; Shane Colton; Ron Moody.

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Staff Present: Jeff Herbert; Dave Risley; Ron Aasheim; Regena Peterson; Bob Lane; Mack Long.

Topics of Discussion:

- 1. Opening – Call to Order**
- 2. Mitchell Slough Waterfowl Hunting Agreement with the Double Fork Ranch – Final**

1. Call to Order. Chairman Ream called the Commission conference call to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Mitchell Slough Waterfowl Hunting Agreement with the Double Fork Ranch - Final. Through a legal decision, Mitchell Slough has been determined to be a public waterway legal to fishing and waterfowl hunting, but because the stream running through private land is so narrow, there is the potential to generate disagreements between hunters and landowners by shooting waterfowl that land on private property. Following receipt of a petition from a landowner along the Slough who proposed to close his land to waterfowl hunting, FWP initiated discussions with landowners and sportsmen to see what mechanism might be developed to keep waterfowl hunting open and address the concerns of the landowners as well. As a result, a new hunting access agreement has been developed with the Double Fork Ranch, the only landowners interested in participating in this project, that would designate a specific area where all waterfowl hunting could occur with the ability to retrieve harvested waterfowl regardless of where they fall. A blind would be installed for public use, and the Double Fork Ranch would require the public to obtain written permission to utilize the Slough through their property. There are some smaller landowners who may be interested in participating at some point.

Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to adopt the proposed Hunting Access Agreement that would provide full public access for waterfowl hunting at the proposed location and in turn, access would be by written permission only along the Mitchell Slough where it runs through the remainder of the Double Fork Ranch.

Mack Long, FWP Region 2 Supervisor, noted that this is a one-year agreement designed to determine if it meets the needs of the landowners and the sportsmen.

Action on Motion: Motion carried.

Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Bob Ream, Chairman

Joe Maurier, Director

